

ABSTRACT

Precision optical mounts that carry and reliably position an optical element so that a plurality of such optical mounts can be arranged in a compact and optically efficient system, wherein opposing optical elements are held in relatively close proximity to one another without introducing distortion. A stationary back plate is arranged in spaced facing alignment with a face plate for imparting a tilting or translational movement to the face plate and to an optical element that is to be carried thereby. The optical mount may be disposed in vertical, upstanding alignment with respect to a support surface to position the optical element (e.g. a mirror) to receive a beam of optical energy. In the alternative, the optical mount may function as a mounting platform to be disposed in horizontal alignment with respect to the support surface so that an optical element (e.g. a prism) can be supported thereupon.